

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 566

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Lester Hudson upon being named the 2008-2009 Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year in men's basketball.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful collegiate athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, after being named the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Player of the Year last season, Lester Hudson, a senior guard at the University of Tennessee-Martin, was recently named the 2008-2009 OVC Player of the Year, only the eleventh player in the sixty-one year history of the OVC to win the award back-to-back; and

WHEREAS, after enjoying one of the best seasons in league history last year, Mr. Hudson skillfully led his team to success this season as the University of Tennessee-Martin (22-9, 14-4) men's basketball team won the OVC regular season championship; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, Lester Hudson overcame great adversity while playing high school basketball in inner-city Memphis; his hard work and dedication have translated to enormous success at the collegiate level; and

WHEREAS, through his leadership and talent, Mr. Hudson has made immeasurable contributions to the University of Tennessee-Martin men's basketball team; and

WHEREAS, named OVC Player of the Week seven times this season, he averaged 26.6 points per contest during the regular season; he scored twenty points or more in the first twenty-six games of the season; and he scored thirty or more points in eight games this season, including a season high forty-one points in a road victory over Central Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, doing more than just scoring, Mr. Hudson averaged 7.7 rebounds per game, 2.4 steals per game, 2.9 three-pointers per game, and had an 88.3 percent free throw average, ranking him as one of the top Division I players in the country for the 2008-2009 season; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, after he scored twenty-five points, grabbed twelve rebounds, dished out ten assists, and made ten steals in a game against Central Baptist College, Lester Hudson became the first Division I men's basketball player to record a quadruple-double in a single game; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Lester Hudson's athletic prowess has garnered him numerous awards this season including being named to the 2008-2009 All OVC First Team, the United States Basketball Writers Association's 2008-2009 District IV Team, and being named as a finalists for the 2008-2009 Lowe's Senior Class Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hudson's determination, work ethic, and talent have not only made possible a memorable and successful basketball career, but also surely point toward his success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Lester Hudson epitomizes the spirit and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Lester Hudson, senior guard for the University of Tennessee-Martin men's basketball team, upon being named the 2008-2009 OVC Player of the Year as he led his team to its first regular season championship, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.